

HEALTH  
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LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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A N N U A L                      R E P O R T  
- - - - -                      - - - - -  
of

The MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for YEAR 1942

by

RONALD E. JOHNSON, M.B., Ch.B..

Rural Council House,  
LICHFIELD.

1st June, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members  
of the Lichfield Rural  
District Council.

The past year has been an exceptionally good one from the point of view of our local population and, in many ways, has been the best year on record. It compares very favourably, as will be seen from the comparisons given, with the figures for the whole country and supports very strongly the contention of the Minister of Health that in 1942, containing as it does parts of the third and fourth years of the war, the health of the population has been very well maintained.

The Birth Rate has been 18.7 per 1,000 of the civilian population in comparison with the figures for England and Wales of 16.3, a surplus of 2.4. The Death Rate has been 9.5 per 1,000 against the average for the country of 11.6. These figures are also better than those for the previous year, 1941, the Birth Rate has increased by 1.6 and the Death Rate has decreased by 2.1.

The Infant Mortality Rate, that is deaths in infants under one year of age per thousand live births, for the whole country is nearly the best on record with a figure of 49. This figure has been greatly improved upon in the Lichfield Rural District with a figure of 37.2, a reduction of 11.8 on the whole country, and in comparison for the previous year for the district, an improvement of 12.8.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The figures of notifications of infectious diseases also show a very great improvement on 1941 and there have been no severe outbreaks or epidemics. A total of 304 notifications have been received as against 670 in 1941, a reduction of 54.6%. This reduction has been general, the only increase being Scarlet Fever, 5 more cases, and Enteric Fever, 6 more cases. The latter was entirely /accounted

accounted for by one small and completely localised outbreak which was dealt with immediately and no secondary cases occurred as a result of it; every case of Enteric Fever which was notified in this area occurred in this outbreak and the patients were taken ill from one dose of infection before its presence was known.

The following diseases have shown a decrease:- Whooping Cough, 99 fewer; Diphtheria, 17; Erysipelas, 10; Measles, 135; Pneumonia, 16; whilst there have been the same number of notifications of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia as in 1941.

As regards notifications of Tuberculosis, I give a table showing the comparative figures for 1938 (the last complete pre-war year), 1941 and 1942 :-

	<u>Pulmonary Tuberculosis.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.</u>		<u>Total.</u>
	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	
1938.	6.	6.	4.	4.	20.
1941.	16.	6.	-.	4.	26.
1942.	9.	3.	3.	3.	18.

From these figures it will be seen that there has been a decrease of 10% in the total as compared with 1938 and of just over 30% with 1941.

On the other hand Deaths from Tuberculosis show a slight increase being 21 compared with 19 in 1941.

#### IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

This campaign has continued with great success, but it is too early yet to be able to deduce that the lowered number of cases of Diphtheria notified is a result of this or whether it is merely a coincidence. I should, at this stage, like to place on record my thanks and great appreciations to the County Health and Education Authorities, their Medical Officers and Health Visitors, the General Medical Practitioners and my Office Staff together with many others who have given most valuable assistance. Without the help of the above, in a scattered area such as this is, it would have been impossible to have carried out the scheme with any hope of success.

It is impossible to give exact figures of those who have completed immunisation since it is not compulsory to notify when this has been performed, but I have taken two different methods in order to ascertain a rough approximation of the percentage of the child population who have been immunised. These two figures show a big difference, since one deals with children of school age and the other concerns children under 5 years of age with whom the Ministry of Health has realised it is more difficult to get in touch.

According to the names on my register, a total of 4206 children have now been immunised, of these 2922 were over 5 and 1284 under that age.



From returns of 39 schools, kindly furnished to me by the County Education Authorities, I find that of 3366 children on their registers, a total of 2943 have completed immunisation, a percentage of 87.4 against the target of the Ministry of Health of a minimum of 75%.

The County Health Visitors have carried out house to house visitation in order to ascertain the number who have been immunised and to attempt to obtain the consent of parents where this has not already been done. I find from these returns that of 917 visited, 607 have completed immunisation, a percentage of 66.2: of the 312 remaining, consent has been obtained in the case of a further 254, whilst in 30 cases the parents are either considering the matter or wish for delay on account of health reasons or there was nobody in when the call was made and forms were left. Thus it will be seen that in only 28 cases or roughly 3% of the total was a definite refusal received.

Taking these two series of figure together it will be seen that of a total of 4283 children thus registered, 3550 have completed immunisation or 82.7%.

## HOUSING.

The housing conditions of the area leave much to be desired and a great deal will need to be done when materials and labour are again available in order to bring the area up to the standard which it should enjoy.

BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION. 18.7

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION.	9.5
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DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:-

Puerperal & Post Abortion Sepsis. 2.

Other Puerperal Causes. 2.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE PER	37.2
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1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.

DEATHS FROM CANCER (all ages). 51.

DEATHS FROM MEASLES (all ages). 1.

DEATHS FROM WHOOPING COUGH (all ages). -.

DEATHS FROM DIARRHOEA (under 2 years). 3.

AVERAGE RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES FOR YEAR 1942.

Country	Births per 1,000 population
Algeria	16.3
Algeria	16.3

DEATHS PER 1,000 POPULATION.	
11.6	
1.6	

INFANT MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS. 49.

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF LICHFIELD DURING THE YEAR 1942.

All causes - 314.

1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...
2.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...

6.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.
8.	Cerebrospinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.
10.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.
11.	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-.
12.	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-.
13.	Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51.
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.
15.	Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31.
16.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60.
17.	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-.
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.
19.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20.
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.
22.	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.
23.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.
24.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-.
26.	Other Diseases of the Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-.
27.	Other Diseases of the Digestive System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.
29.	Puerperal and Post Abortion Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.
30.	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.
31.	Congenital Malformations, Births Injuries etc	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.
Premature Births									
32.	Senility	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-.
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.
34.	Other Violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.
35.	Other Defined Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39.
36.	Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1942 (Civilians Only).

Typhoid Fever.	-.
Paratyphoid Fever.	8.
Scarlet Fever.	84.
Whooping Cough.	19.
Diphtheria.	40.
Erysipelas.	6.
Small Pox.	-.
Measles.	103.
Pneumonia.	41.
Puerperal Pyrexia.	3.

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Medical Officer of Health.